

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An iris diaphragm device for a microscope comprising:
  - an iris diaphragm including a stationary mount ring, a rotatable adjusting ring, and a plurality of blades, the plurality of blades forming a diaphragm opening, the diaphragm opening being steplessly adjustable between a maximum size and a minimum size of the diaphragm opening by rotation of the adjusting ring;
  - a coupling linkage connected to the adjusting ring and including at least a first and a second lever;
  - an actuation element configured to drive the coupling linkage; and
  - a closure element disposed on one of the first and second levers so that after a predefined size of the diaphragm opening has been established, upon a further actuation of the actuation element, the closure element pivots so as to cover the diaphragm opening.
2. The iris diaphragm device as recited in claim 1 wherein the closure element is configured to pivot in front of and cover the diaphragm opening after the minimum size of the diaphragm opening has been established.
3. The iris diaphragm device as recited in claim 1 wherein the actuation element includes a drive wheel driven in at least one of a manual and a motorized fashion.
4. The iris diaphragm device as recited in claim 1 wherein the actuation element includes an electric motor.
5. The iris diaphragm device as recited in claim 4 wherein the electric motor is a stepping motor.

6. The iris diaphragm device as recited in claim 1 wherein the coupling linkage is configured so that the diaphragm opening changes approximately logarithmically as a function of a rotation angle of the actuation element.
7. The iris diaphragm device as recited in claim 6 wherein the coupling linkage is configured so that the size of the diaphragm opening changes approximately logarithmically as a function of a rotation angle of the actuation element at small sizes of the diaphragm opening.
8. The iris diaphragm device as recited in claim 1 wherein a range of rotation of the actuation element is limited so that by adjustment of the coupling linkage all sizes of the diaphragm opening are capable of being established.
9. The iris diaphragm device as recited in claim 8 wherein the range of rotation of the actuation element is limited so that by adjustment of the coupling linkage all sizes of the diaphragm opening, from the maximum size to the pivoting of the closure element to cover the diaphragm opening, are capable of being established.